

PULLOVER JACKET WITH CUSTOMIZED DECORATIVE BAND

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The applicant wishes to claim the benefit of U.S.
Provisional Patent Application No. 60/272,539, filed March
5 1, 2001, for PULLOVER JACKET WITH CUSTOMIZED DECORATIVE
BAND, in the names of David Barnes, Stina Shaw, and Barry
Lipsett.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY
SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

10 Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING, A TABLE, OR
A COMPUTER PROGRAM LISTING COMPACT DISK APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to pullover jackets of
the type that may be adorned with decorative bands or the
like, which are intended to provide a visual flourish that
is appropriate for sports activities and events.

20 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

A pullover jacket typically is characterized by a
clothing construction that facilitates its being slipped on
and off over the head and shoulders. Such jackets often are
provided with decorative bands or the like, which are chosen
25 by individuals or organizations as a matter of personal
preference or as an emblem of group identity. In view of

the many different colors and designs that often are ordered for immediate delivery, sales organizations that carry such pullover jackets have had to maintain unduly large and costly inventories in order to accommodate a diversity of customers.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide, for convenient assembly as a customized pullover jacket unit: (1) a body construction having a configuration that is designed to be slipped over the head and shoulders; and (2) one or more decorative band constructions having distinguishable color and design for ready affixation to the pullover jacket construction. To enable such assembly, each body construction, which accounts for the major component of unit cost, is completely fabricated except for the decorative band or bands. Available for attachment to the body construction are any of a great variety of band constructions of different colors and designs, each of which individually accounts for a minor component of unit cost.

As a practical matter, such an inventory includes a relatively small number of body constructions in a range of sizes, and a relatively large number of band constructions in a variety of colors and designs. By virtue of the foregoing assembly system, keeping an economical inventory is feasible.

It is desired that the assembly of each body construction and band construction appears to be a unitary original manufacture. Because of the acute sensitivity of the human eye to even a minor misalignment or discontinuity, the present invention provides the following interconnections pursuant to the present invention. At the upper and lower edges of the band construction and at corresponding upper and lower points on the body construction are mating fasteners. Extending from the body construction is an elongated flap that overlaps the upper edge of the band construction. Since, ordinarily, the human eye looks downwardly at the band construction, the flap masks the fasteners and any visual discontinuity at its upper edge. Also, since, ordinarily, the human eye looks downwardly at the band construction, the fasteners and the shadows, which might constitute a visual discontinuity at the band's lower edge, are not casually noticeable. Furthermore, since the mating fasteners are precisely located on the band and body constructions, misalignment is precluded during assembly. Preferably, the mating fasteners at the upper edge of the band construction are constituted by the mating articulations of a zipper, which extends continuously throughout the upper edge of the band construction for the purpose of preventing noticeable wrinkles.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a fuller understanding of the nature and object of the present invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

5 Fig. 1 is a front view of a pullover jacket embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a back view of the jacket of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a broken-away and enlarged front view of the decorative band of the jacket of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 4 is a broken-away and enlarged back view of the decorative band of the jacket of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the construction of the jacket of Fig. 1, taken along the line 5 - 5 of Fig. 1;

15 Fig. 6 is a back view of a modification of the jacket of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of the system and process of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The Embodiment of Figs. 1 through 5

20 Figs. 1 through 5 illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present invention as a body construction 20 and a band construction 22. The body construction comprises a bodice 24, a pair of sleeves 26 and 28, and a hood 30. The band construction blends with the body construction to provide a
25 smoothly integrated appearance.

Bodice 24 includes a front lower body section 32, a back lower body section 34, and a yoke section 36. Yoke section 36 extends over the shoulders from the front lower body section to the back lower body section. In the embodiment of Figs. 1 through 5, yoke section 36 and back lower body section 34 are integral and continuous. Hood 30 projects through an opening 38 in yoke section 36 and, together with the front of the yoke section, provide a slit 40. The opposed edges 42 and 44 of the slit are provided with the mated articulations of a zipper 46. Seams along lines 46 and 48 join the side edges of the front and back lower body sections.

The sleeves are formed by loops having longitudinal seams 50 and 52, which extend from the armpits to the wrists. The inner extremities of the sleeves are joined to yoke section 36 and to lower front and lower back sections 32 and 34 by stitching 54 and 56. The outer extremities of the sleeves have cuffs 58 and 60, which can be constricted tightly about the wrists by hook and loop, i.e. velcro, straps 62 and 64. Front lower body section 32 has oblique pockets 66 and 68, which are provided with zippered closures.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 5, band construction 22 is affixed to front lower body section 32 by a zipper shown at 70 at the upper edges of the band, and a pair of snaps at

the lower corners of the band, one such snap being shown at 72. Zipper 70 has mated lengths of articulations 74 and 76, which extend along the entire upper edge of the front band construction. Snaps have male and female detents 78 and 80 at the lower corners of band construction 22. The lower periphery of the front section of yoke 36 provides a flap 82, which conceals the upper edge of band construction 22 and the zipper extending there along. In an alternative embodiment, the zipper is replaced by a distribution of snaps.

As shown in Fig. 5, jacket construction 20 includes a shell and a lining. The shell includes the outer strata of the aforementioned yoke, sleeves, body sections and hood. The lining, which backs the shell and is fastened to it by stitching at peripheral locations, is shown at 84. In various forms, the shell preferably is composed of one of the following: a taffeta-type fabric such as 210T taffeta nylon; a high spun nylon taslon-like or Tactel fabric; and a brushed fleece knit. Preferably, the lining is composed of a flannel-type fabric, which is characterized by a napped, soft surface.

The Embodiment of Fig. 6

Fig. 6 illustrates the back of another jacket embodying the present invention. This jacket, shown at 86, comprises all of the features of the jacket of Figs. 1 through 5,

except for the structure at its back. Thus the front of the jacket of Fig. 6 is identical to the front of jacket of Figs. 1 through 5. However, in the jacket of Fig. 6, the back comprises a band construction 86 and a lower back body construction 88. Here, the yoke, shown at 90 extends over the shoulders from the front lower body section to the back lower body section.

In the manner of Fig. 5, band construction 86 is affixed to back lower body section 92 by a zipper shown at 94 at the upper edges of the band, and a pair of snaps at the lower corners of the band, one such snap being shown at 96. Zipper 94 has mated lengths of articulations 98 and 100, which extend along the entire upper edge of the back band construction. Snaps have male and female detents 102 and 104 at the lower corners of band construction 86. The lower periphery of the back section of yoke 90 provides a flap 106, which conceals the upper edge of band construction 86 and the zipper extending there along. In an alternative embodiment, the zipper is replaced by a distribution of snaps.

The System and Process of Fig. 7

The present invention contemplates the acquisition by a distributor or retailer, as at 110 and 112, inventories 114 of jacket constructions of different sizes and inventories 116 of bands of matching sizes. For example, the jacket

constructions cover the following selections of sizes:

Small/Medium, Large/X-Large, and XX-Large/XXX-Large. The selections of the lengths, i.e. the horizontal dimensions, of the bands are commensurate with the selections of these jacket construction sizes. Preferably, the bands range in height, i.e. in vertical dimension, from 2 to 6 inches.

Thus, the zippers and flaps at the upper edges of bands for larger sizes are longer than the zippers and flaps at the upper edges of the bands for smaller sizes. Also, the snaps at the horizontal corners of the bands for larger sizes are farther apart than the snaps at the horizontal corners of the bands for smaller sizes. When an order is received as at 118, the seller assembles the customized pullover jacket unit or units as at 120, and ships or otherwise delivers them, as at 122, to the customer.

OPERATION

Each customized unit comprises (1) a pullover jacket construction having a fabric configuration that facilitates slipping over the head and shoulders; and (2) a band construction having distinguishable color and design for affixation to the pullover jacket construction. The inventory of jacket constructions, which accounts for the major component of unit cost, is completely fabricated except for the decorative band or bands. Available for attachment to the pullover jacket construction are any of a

great variety of bands of different colors and designs, each of which individually accounts for a minor component of unit cost. By virtue of the foregoing assembly arrangement, an economical inventory arrangement is feasible. Such an

5 inventory includes a relatively small number of pullover body constructions in a range of sizes, and a relatively large number of band constructions in a variety of colors and designs. At the upper and lower edges of the band construction and at corresponding upper and lower points on

10 the jacket construction are mating detents. Extending from the jacket construction is an elongated flap that overlaps the upper edge of the band construction. Since, ordinarily, the human eye looks downwardly at the band construction, the flap masks the fasteners and any visual discontinuity at its

15 upper edge. Also, since, ordinarily, the human eye looks downwardly at the band construction, the fasteners and the shadows, which constitute the visual discontinuity at its lower edge, are not casually noticeable. Furthermore, since the mating fasteners are precisely located on the band and

20 jacket constructions, misalignment is precluded during assembly. Preferably, the mating fasteners at the upper edge of the band construction are constituted by the mating articulations of a zipper, which extends continuously throughout the upper edge of the band construction for the

25 purpose of preventing noticeable wrinkles.